PERIODICO EN ESPAÑOL ADENTRO

CHALLENGE

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM · LUCHE POR EL COMUNISMO · PLP

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

Volume 51 No. 3 February 6, 2019 suggested donation $1

LA STRIKE

STUDENT-PARENT-TEACHER SOLIDARITY



LOS ANGELES, CA, January 23—Tens of thousands of education workers led a strike for six school days for the learning conditions students deserve. They called for reduced class sizes, more school personnel such as librarians, nurses, and counselors, to create "community schools" which serve the communities who have the most need, regulate charter schools, decrease testing, and pay teachers a living wage. Parents, students, and community members showed solidarity by joining picket lines, rallies and actions across Los Angeles for six working days.

As communists, we understand that class struggle is a critical aspect to winning the working class to have confidence that we can overthrow capitalism and replace it with a society that is run for and by the workers. With this in mind, we met to plan our involvement in this massive strike.

Progressive Labor Party here supported the picket lines at 10 different schools around the City. We distributed a PLP leaflet and CHALLENGE. We led militant chants and some scab confrontations. We also made dozens of new contacts with school workers and supporters. Strikers appreciated the contributions we made to the struggle.

No one crosses the picket line

At one high school where a PL'er works, a strike committee was formed to prepare for the upcoming actions. The teachers on this committee were able to get many teachers, students, parents, and friends to rally. They received support from the community. During the week, teachers worked together to come up with plans on how to prevent scabs from crossing their picket line and how to keep their unity in the struggle.

Initially, the situation was very tense. Some teachers were unsure if they were willing to trust other teacher leaders. But, things quickly changed.

Two teachers placed their cars in front of the faculty parking lot to stop scabs from entering the building. They refused to move their cars unless they knew the staff coming into the parking lot. When the school administrators and security guards realized the striking teachers were not going to back down, they called the Los Angeles Police Department. These strikers still did not back down. They received citations for illegal parking. This later turned into a fundraiser to support those who received the fine.

Class struggle builds trust and unity

After this militant action, there was a stronger sense of trust and unity among the teachers and staff. One teacher who had previously sent out an angry, anti-communist email later sent an email encouraging the staff on strike to remain unified

and work together.In another incident, a scab tried to get into the parking lot and six teachers held the gate shut while security tried to open the gate. These teachers screamed "Scab Go Home!"

Actions like these continued for three days. On day four, three out of four scabs did not show up for the rest of the week, for fear of the strikers. This was a small victory at this school because it demonstrated the power of working-class unity.

Continued on page 3

STRIKE ISSUE

OUR FIGHT

✰Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

✰The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

✰Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

✰While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

✰Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

✰Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

✰Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

✰Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

✰Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

✰Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

CONTACT US

Email
desafio.challenge@gmail.com
Mail
Box 808 GPO, Brooklyn, NY 11202
Internet
www.plp.org
challengenewspaper.wordpress.com
Twitter: @PLPchallenge
Facebook: Challenge Desafio

WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

CHALLENGE/DESAFIO (ISSN 0009-1049) published bi-weekly by Challenge Periodicals. 1 issue $1. One Year: $20. Six months: $15. Send address changes to CHALLENGE Periodicals, GPO Box 808 Brooklyn, NY 11202, February 6, 2019•Volume 51 No. 3

Editorial

U.S. threatened by China's growing imperialist clout, World War looms

As the rivalry between U.S. and Chinese capitalists intensifies, Canada is the latest country forced to choose which imperialist master's orders to follow.

Since the December arrest in Vancouver of a top Chinese business executive, Meng Wangzhou, at the order of the U.S., tensions between China and Canada have been rising. After threatening "severe consequences," China retaliated by arresting two Canadians for "harming national security" (code for spying) and sentencing a third to death for drug smuggling. The latest word is that the U.S. will escalate the fight by pressing Canada to extradite Meng for a criminal trial in the U.S.

Meng is chief financial officer and daughter of the founder of Huawei, the world's largest telecom manufacturer and a big part of China's plan to overtake the U.S. as the world leader in 21st-century technology. She was arrested on suspicion of violating U.S. sanctions by selling products to Iran. But her more serious offense may be her part in challenging U.S. control over its own backyard. Although U.S. trade still dominates the Canadian economy, China is now Canada's second-largest trading partner, "one of Canada's biggest buyers of agricultural products from oilseeds to softwood lumber and … a growing market for the nation's banks, insurers and luxury-good makers" (business.financialpost.com, 12/13/18).

As Chinese imperialism extends its influence at the expense of the U.S. bosses, and world war looms on the horizon, the international working class must play its role in organizing for class war across borders. Progressive Labor Party (PLP) aims to organize millions to fulfill that historical duty.

U.S.-China Cold War

The latest dogfight is a lot bigger than Canada. Through their Belt and Road Initiative (BRI, see box), China's bosses are forging new alliances and expanding their power throughout the world, a trend that accelerated after the U.S. economic collapse of 2008. The BRI is the largest capitalist infrastructure and investment plan since the U.S. Marshall Plan after World War II. (Through economic coercion and military dependence, the Marshall Plan became the foundation for U.S. imperialism around the world.)

In an effort to curb Chinese ambitions in new technologies, the U.S. has successfully convinced some allies (Australia, New Zealand, Britain) to ban the use of Huawei products in their next-generation telecom infrastructure. Claiming that Huawei is an arm of the Chinese government, the U.S. bosses have launched an investigation into the company for violating sanctions against Iran, Cuba, and North Korea. China's Global Times slapped back, pointing out that the U.S. never abides by international rules and arbitrarily launches unilateral sanctions and wars against other countries (Global Times, 1/18).

The new cold war between the U.S. and China is a fight between the old U.S.dominated liberal world order and China's rising imperialist order, controlled by an openly fascist state. Despite their differences, however, both superpowers are capitalist dictatorships. Either form of capitalist rule is deadly for the working class.

Most important, the current period is a time when the weaknesses of capitalism will be on full display—an opportunity for communists. The goal of PLP is to change the main contradiction from the bosses fighting each other to the international working class fighting the bosses to establish a communist world.

Golden Age of Chinese imperialism?

In Africa, China has pledged over $60 billion in loans in exchange for minerals, roads, airports, oil, and natural gas. In response, U.S. National Security Advisor John Bolton said "the United States would lavish money and greater attention on the African continent, casting it as a crucial battleground in the global economic contest between the United States and China." The "greatest threat" Bolton said, "came not from poverty or Islamist extremism but from an expansionist China, as well as Russia" (New York Times, 12/13/18).

China and Finland have agreed to jointly build the Polar Silk Road shipping routes (Global Times, 1/15). China's increasing activity in the Arctic region also gives them access to huge amounts of liquefied natural gas (Reuters, 1/26/18).

In Latin America, China has pledged to increase trade by $500 billion and foreign investment to $250 billion by 2025. The China Development Bank and the Export-Import Bank of China now provide more development financing to Latin America than the World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, and the Andean Development Corporation (CAF) combined.

China's big opportunity

The Belt and Road Initiative is building ports, railways, roads, pipelines, and telecom facilities across the Eurasian land mass (the "Belt") and along the coast of the Indian Ocean (the "Road"). More than 900 infrastructure projects undergird growing trade, financial, academic, and political networks. Launched in 2013 as a modern incarnation of the ancient Silk Road and maritime spice routes, the BRI is China's golden opportunity to advance its military objectives. Chinese state-owned enterprises now run at least 76 ports and terminals out of 34 countries, including Greece, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka (Foreign Affairs, May/June 2018).

In Europe, Chinese state-backed and private companies have been involved in deals worth at least $255 billion. Approximately 360 companies have been taken over, from airports and seaports to wind farms and stock markets and even football teams. "The available figures underestimate the true size and scope of China's ambitions in Europe" (Bloomberg, 4/23/18).

China v. U.S. gunboat diplomacy

As China works to control access in the South China Sea with a continuing military buildup, the U.S. has responded with so-called Freedom of Navigation operations, which are really shows of military readiness. Japan, Australia, France, and Britain have participated as well.

The Council on Foreign Relations, the leading think tank for the U.S. main-wing finance capitalists, has called for the U.S. to enlist a multilateral coalition "to help deter further Chinese aggression or new claims in the South China Sea" (1/16). A hot war between China and the U.S. is growing more and more likely.

Two gangs of loan sharks

Lately the U.S. bosses' media have cried foul over China's "predatory loans" to developing nations. The U.S.-backed international loan sharks, the IMF and World Bank, focus more on controlling a country's resources and spending habits. They offer lengthy grace periods for repayment. China's loans, on the other hand, give debtor nations more autonomy in how they spend the money. They also charge above-market interest rates, with punishing clauses that force debtor nations to absorb any losses from failed projects (Foreign Affairs, September/October 2018)

Since China's bosses grabbed a port in Sri Lanka for loan delinquency, the backlash—manipulated by the U.S.—has led a number of countries to rethink their relationship with China's BRI:

- Malaysia canceled a $20 billion railroad and a $2.3 billion natural gas pipeline project with China.
- In the Maldives, voters elected a new president, Ibrahim Solih, who ran on an anti-China campaign.
- Kenya began cracking down on officials taking Chinese bribes.
- Bangladesh canceled a plan for a Chinese state-run firm to build a $2 billion highway.

Only resolution: communist revolution

Both U.S market capitalism and Chinese state capitalism are deadly ideologies for the working class. World war is the only way capitalists can resolve their conflicts. War is the ultimate decider in choosing which imperialist order will rule the world.

As we saw in Russia in World War I, and in China after World War II, the communist-led working class has seized state power in periods of instability and global conflict. Workers must be prepared once again to take power and build a world free of exploitation. They must smash the capitalist parasites who put profits above the needs of our class. Join Progressive Labor Party! We have a communist world to win!✪

Baltimore: Protesters force top cop nominee to withdraw



BALTIMORE, January 5—A nearly unanimous "No way!" was the powerful answer to the confirmation of Mayor Catherine Pugh's nominee, Joel Fitzgerald, as Baltimore's next police commissioner. He would have been the City's fifth top cop in less than four years since the Freddie Gray rebellion in 2015, which put fear in the hearts, and instability in the decision-making, of the local ruling class.

Several days before the City Council hearing, 11 West Wednesday protesters participated in the third monthly CHALLENGE Readers' Discussion Group. (West Wednesdays are the continuing protests in response to the murder of Tyrone West in July 18, 2013.) One of the topics was about organizing speakers at the hearing, which we succeeded in doing!

Tawanda Jones, main organizer of the weekly West Wednesday rallies that demand accountability for her brother's death and for all victims of police terror, declared to members of the City Council, about Fitzgerald, "Get him out, or we'll push you out!"

Fitzgerald's defining moment

The defining moment, in Fitzgerald's career, was not the exaggeration and dishonesty in the resume he submitted for this job. Nor was it his racist response to a question about police-community relations: sometimes the best thing is to call an emergency pro-police "back the blue" rally, as he has done in Ft. Worth Texas, where he is currently police commissioner.

No, the defining moment was probably when Ft. Worth cop William Martin responded to a 911 call by Black woman Jacqueline Craig, who accused a white male neighbor of grabbing and choking her 7-year-old son. Shortly after arriving on the scene, Cop Martin forcefully shoved his taser into Ms. Craig's back, and brutally arrested, not the neighbor, but Jacqueline and her two daughters. Even the Ft. Worth police internal investigation found Martin guilty of excessive force.

Commissioner Fitzgerald de facto let Cop Martin get away. Martin was docked two weeks pay. Fitzgerald instead demoted who commanders for releasing the video revealing the violence against Jacqueline and her family. This led to outrage and protests. In other words, Fitzgerald was far more upset about the truth getting out, than he was about racist police terror. His handling of that crisis was his defining moment.

Speak out at City Council hearing

If he became Baltimore's police chief, killer cops here would be even more emboldened. That's why it's reasonable to argue that shutting down the Fitzgerald confirmation will probably result in prevenient murder of working-class lives in Baltimore. And we did shut it down! Two days after the City Council hearing, Fitzgerald withdrew himself from consideration.

Among the 70 speakers, many focused on advocating for various reforms: calling for a homegrown police commissioner, more community policing with foot patrols, no reinstitution of the deadly "jump out boys," and no "Back the Blue" rallies.

No use in reforming wage slavery

The limiting the goal to an effort for reforming capitalism is equivalent to folks during slavery trying only to limit the length of whips. Clearly, the bigger goal—complete abolition of slavery—was the necessary focus.

The same is true today. We need to abolish this system of wage slavery. Progressive Labor Party upholds the communist view that as long as capitalism is the framework, vicious policing of the masses is essential to the survival of this system. Trying to control and repress the working class, by way of violence and terror, is the sword of this vastly unequal system. Only a relentless marathon towards a communist society can cut off racist police at its knees.

Over time, we plan to back up sharp words with unified mass action against politricksters, the Klan in blue, and all the other treacherous attacks of capitalism.✪

Letter

Tijuana: ground zero for fascism vs. refugee workers

I recently returned from a week in Tijuana, Mexico, responding to a call by the New Sanctuary Caravan to lend moral and other support to our brothers and sisters fleeing from Central America. Their bold call was a pro-internationalist to president Donald Trump and the U.S. ruling class's racist divisiveness.

Tijuana is one of the largest ports of entry in the world, and even though the vast majority of migrants/refugees are from Central America, they are also from many other countries, like Haiti, Yemen, Iraq, Somalia, Sierra Leone, Brazil, Russia, and Mexico itself, fleeing the poverty and instability that the system of imperialism produces. And the U.S. embassies refuse to grant them visas to the U.S. (So much for the argument that "They should come 'the right way'").

Sexism and racism are also at play here. Many of the Central American refugees are young women fleeing sexual violence and persecution. A brave 14-year-old Central American girl walked away from home one night without informing her family where she was going. Fleeing the sexual abuse of a family member, she carried nothing with her except a little money in her pocket. She told the lawyer who found her at the border crossing that she found her way to the border by following the lights from the cars and buses. Many refugees are indigenous workers being victimized by racist abuse and oppression in their countries of origin.

As bad as then-president Barack Obama was "Deporter in Chief", Trump's policies are carrying on, and advancing, that legacy. He's raising the level of state sponsored cruelty to new heights by separating families, effectively shutting the border, and torturing workers and children in Customs and Border Patrol facilities (nicknamed "The Icebox" by refugees). I watched the face of a little girl sitting on the curb at the border crossing listening intently as a lawyer advised her mother to write her own name and date of birth with a sharpie pen on the girl's shoulder in the event they are separated. The trauma that children and their parents are experiencing is reminiscent of Southern slavery and the boarding schools for U.S. indigenous children.

Thousands of refugees have been living for months in Tijuana in tents and unheated shelters (the temperature is in the 40's at night) waiting for their numbers to be called to begin the asylum process. Working hand-in-glove, the U.S. and Mexican governments have manufactured this crisis to force people to self-deport or accept the one-year Mexican work visas offered. Every day, the Mexican government shuttles refugees and migrants to a job fair, channeling them into the low wage jobs that will boost the Mexican economy.

The refugee crisis is more than an immigration issue. It's part of the racist division of labor across borders that capitalism needs to maximize profits. It's part of the legacy of sexism that began with class society when women became the property of men. It's a reflection of capitalism's view of workers as tools for profit with disposable lives. It's a reflection of workers' mass impulse to resist exploitation and claim their full humanity. It's an issue that lay bare capitalism's failures, and the neccesity for a new social system: communism.

Now, a new caravan is leaving Honduras, continuing to challenge the existence of the capitalist borders that keep the poor countries poor and the rich countries rich. We need to bring the communist line to the struggle "Working People have no Nation, Smash the Borders" and do all we can to build solidarity.

The hundreds of volunteers coming to the border also need to hear our class analysis, the only answer to a movement, that is heavily influenced by the liberal establishment. Karl Marx said in the *Communist Manifesto*, "All history is the history of class struggle". Here it is. The refugee movement is overwhelming the status quo and pushing history forward. Volunteers mostly see themselves as providing service and moral support to the immigrants but not as organizers of struggle to change this system. The Party's involvement could help transform it into a fighting movement of the international working class.

I worked with Al Otro Lado that has a Pro Se Clinic that prepares refugees to advocate for themselves in the asylum process. Spanish speakers, and speakers of Arabic, French, Haitian Creole, and other languages, lawyers, law students, or medical professionals are most useful, but everyone can play a role. There are others organizing support too—World Central Kitchen, Food not Bombs, Border Angels, Deported Veterans, DACA moms, Pueblo sin Fronteras.

I raised the Party's ideas in conversation with some of the volunteers and distributed a party flier to them, but was unable to get very far with the little time we had together. I plan to continue this solidarity work in my home city with the community college students I work with. Tijuana and other border communities where migrants confront a militarized border, present a great opportunity for the Party to bring its ideas.✪

Union election reveals collusion of MTA & sellout union

NEW YORK CITY, January 20—As the dust settles on the recent TWU local 100 (largest transit union in the country) elections the uncertainty that permeates the U.S., and is now is reflecting itself within the union and its members. This past election was held in the midst of pressure on the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) bosses to answer for unreliable service and mounting debt. The bosses' answer has been a threat to raise fares, impose a hiring freeze, harsher discipline, and to cry broke.

The reality is that the best fix for the transit system is to do away with politicians and the MTA bosses. A worker run society will put the needs of the working class first about what and where service is needed. Under this capitalist system service needs are determined by what benefits the billionaire bankers and business owners. The working class ridership and MTA workers united against the politicians, real estate moguls, MTA bosses, and ultimately their masters the banks, is the only force than can win a better subway system in the short term and a better world, communism, in the long term.

The union sellouts' misleadership regained power for many of the top union spots, while in the subways division (Service Delivery) of the union they lost almost all of their leadership posts to fake progressives. These 'progressives' talk about building morale amongst members and getting the union strike ready, all the while looking for friendly politicians. Their ultimate strategy still relies on using the bosses' media, lawyers and arbitrators rather than workers powers'.

This union misleadership has been ruling the union by pitting one division against the next, bribing workers in buses by controlling their overtime etc., while neglecting the needs of others outright. They back anti-labor Governor Cuomo, the boss of the MTA, without any criticism.

The subway is the cash cow of the MTA, moving over 5 million workers a day, but the life of subway workers is not easy. The average workday of the predominately Black and Latin workers ranges between 10-12 hours a day. Newer workers start with the worst schedules and very little certainty about where and when they work. Every Friday they must call to see if their days off have changed for the next week. The crew (screw) assignment section controls your life.

Bosses neglect subways blame workers

The neglect of the subway system by the MTA bosses and politicians has left the subway workers to make do; making do with malfunctioning signals, no time to eat, and short to no recovery times between runs. Antiquated radios make communication impossible, leaving both ridership and workers in the dark about delays and other problems.

There has been a steady rise in operating crew discipline with little to no fight-back from the union. The best answer you receive from the union when fighting the MTA on discipline is to get your own lawyer. The latest round of news on the MTA is that they are aiming to speed up service by fixing broken signals. Immediately workers ask if there is going to be a lawsuit to win back lost jobs, wages and benefits for all the workers that have been disciplined for running into these malfunctioning signals. Starting from training you are told to do about 5-10 mph less that the posted speed when you encounter a time signal. But if you hit the signal doing less that 5-10 mph of the posted speed it's your fault because you were "inattentive." With the news that the MTA is now fixing these signals, they have finally admitted they are not working as they are supposed to. The union has been silent on the issue.

Workers must fightback!

The main organized resistance to the current union sellout leadership is coming from the subways division (Conductors, Train Operators, Tower Operators, Cleaners).This division has been under attack for about two decades and even more so under this new move to modernize. The resistance now is mostly angry talk, exposing the union misleaders backroom deals with management.

The election exposed many underhanded deals that the current union leadership made with the MTA bosses. They issued body cameras to spy on subway crews more than to prevent assaults. The cell phones policy is vague leaving workers open to harassment and disciplining. Recently, the MTA has installed cameras in work train cabs without a word to crew members who know this wouldn't be possible without agreement with the union, but the union has been silent about this new camera program.

The coming election has emboldened more members to speak up and get involved but many still see allying with politicians as the only way we can make progress. We must have more confidence in ourselves, the working class, both transit workers and the riding public. Relying on politicians or the media builds cynicism.

Let's turn our anger and discussions on the job into action. Let's go to union meetings and confront our do-nothing misleaders. Let's go to the bosses' offices and confront them when they try to discipline one of us. Let's reach out to our brothers and sisters who ride the trains and busses. Let's build a stronger, fighting, strike ready union before the May contract deadline. Join with the Progressive Labor Party in the long-term fight for a world run by the working class: communism.✪

Ruling class dispute shuts down workers

WASHINGTON D.C, January 20–There is one thing the now 29 day old government shutdown shows for sure; neither Donald Trump nor his Democratic opponents have any concern for workers, the main victims of this power game between the main imperialist wing of the ruling class and the domestically oriented, Republican Trump supporters.

78 percent of Americans live paycheck to paycheck (CNBC, 1/9).Now 800,000 federal employees and hundreds of thousands of contractors, who are 40 percent of government personnel, are without one, whether or not they are being forced to work. To understand the devastation, we must know that 21.2 percent of U.S. families have no savings, including over 32 percent of Latin and 37 percent of Black families. 40 percent of all families have less than $400 in available cash for emergencies, according to the Federal Reserve. What more proof need there be that workers cannot afford to live under this capitalist system?

Indigenous workers living on federally funded land have been hardest hit. Snow covered roads are not being cleared, ambulances are not running and a 60 percent unpaid healthcare workforce devastates medical care. Some of the other concrete effects of the shutdown, which disproportionately affects Black and Latin workers, are: food stamps, used by 38 million people, were given out early for February and will no longer be available; federal cash welfare for $34 million is gone and being temporarily replaced by states; USDA loans and federal rent subsidies for low income rural dwellers will end by 2/1; food inspections have markedly decreased; approvals for opioid drug antagonists (drugs that counteract narcotic overdoses) cannot be had. If workers have not already died from these measures, some soon will, and it is certain that widespread effects of the stress and deprivation will continue long after the shutdown ends.

Why make a crisis out of immigration?

Trump pretends that there is an "immigration crisis," but illegal border crossings have dropped from 851,000 in 2006 to approximately 62,000 in 2016, and both documented and undocumented immigrants commit crimes at a much lower rate than the native born and have a lower unemployment rate (NYT 1/11). Most illegally imported drugs are smuggled through legal ports of entry. Given the falling fertility rates of native-born Americans, the U.S. would need to admit more than a million immigrants a year until 2050, more than double the current number, just to maintain current levels of production (NYT, 1/15).

What the maintenance of legal barriers to immigration does accomplish is to keep this large body of workers in a state of constant fear, drastically limiting their ability to demand higher wages or organize. By branding immigrant workers as dangerous and criminal, racist and nationalistic divisions are also sown between them and other workers, including Black workers and legal immigrants or their descendants.

Why is this happening now?

There may be no better explanation than that Trump is a bumbling politician, without any stable advisors representing the usual ruling class forces. He sees himself as beholden to his most racist and reactionary base to fulfill a campaign promise to "build the wall" and earn his racist and nationalist stripes. However, there should be no illusions that the Democrats or liberals who oppose him have any interest in treating immigrants with humanity. Since a century ago, Presidents Wilson, Nixon, Carter, Reagan, Clinton, both Bush's and Obama have set up draconian barriers to immigration and increased deportations. Obama deported more immigrants than any president ever (about 3 million), and Democrats have built more of the existing wall than Republicans. Workers should not only fight against this racist border wall and this racist government shutdown; we should fight for a world without borders – communism.

The Democrats today, representing the main finance wing of the ruling class, are anxious to weaken Trump, who is destroying years of policies that strengthened the U.S. ruler's international military, political and financial alliances. They are horrified by his general undisciplined behavior. They fear that his withdrawing from Syria and Afghanistan, and threatening to withdraw from NATO threatens their worldwide, imperialist empire. They also oppose his total destruction of environmental regulations, overt racism, and destruction of "free trade," all damaging to the reputation and sway of America's large corporations and their international imperialist alliances.

Ultimately, workers must rise up collectively to defend ourselves from both parties. Mass sickouts among airport workers are already happening and may spread. Although federal workers are legally banned from striking, job actions are needed to fight for survival as all the bosses ignore their needs. Once again it is clear that capitalism cares naught for workers' lives and that we need, in the end, to be fighting for a society we control–communism. ✪

STRIKE! STRIKE! STRIKE!

150 million workers bring India to a halt

INDIA, January 9 For two days, India's 7,421 freight trains and 59,713 passenger cars did not move to any major cities. They could not move, because in places like the capital of the southwestern state of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram, workers were sitting down on the tracks. As were their working class sisters and brothers in Chennai, in neighboring Tamil Nadu. As were workers 1,500 miles (2400 km) away in eastern Assam, bordering Bangladesh and Bhutan, where one quarter of India's oil is produced. One third of the country's working class - 150 million workers - were on strike!

'Stop traffic and trains!'

Buses in Mumbai and Delhi, two of the world's ten largest cities, with a combined population of nearly 50 million workers, did not move either. In Kolkata, the third largest city in India, transit workers protested inside train stations. Meanwhile in the country's largest industrial zones like those in Chhattisgarh, workers joined from basic industries such as coal, iron, steel, aluminum, auto, machining, chemical, cement, and power generation.

Sprawling factories in the Mumbai, Delhi and Chennai industrial belts went idle as farmers, students, teachers, service workers like bank clerks, 'anganwaldis' (childcare) and healthcare workers—even non-unionized workers—joined workers in the streets in response to the unions' command to 'rail and rasta roko: "stop traffic and trains!"

The demands

A joint committee of nationwide labor unions, the Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU), called the strike in opposition to Prime Minister Narendra Modi's latest "Labour Law" proposals to further weaken the ability of workers to unionize, to the point where labor unions will practically be illegal. Among the twelve strike demands were: stop the proposed "Labour Laws"; stop privatization of public transit; raise the minimum wage; institute price controls on the rising food costs; faster government recognition of new unions; abolish non-permanent and contract labor; and establish a social security fund for non-union workers.

Behind these demands, the conditions for this massive general strike (like the 180 million-strong strike in 2016) have been brewing at least since 1991. In 1991, India's bosses turned to U.S. imperialism for foreign investment–which the World Bank provided–in exchange for massive restructuring of the Indian economy.

The changes brought astronomical profits for the bosses and mass misery for the workers. Dispossession brought mass internal migration, fueled by capitalist-provoked racist violence by growing Hindu-centric "Hindutva" fascist movements, guilty of massacres of Muslims and non-Hindi speakers, and racism against the "untouchable" Dalit caste. It's no coincidence Narendra Modi's Bharata Janatiya Party (BJP) formally embraced the Hindutva in the early 1990s.

Today, India's working class has the worst sanitation, highest suicide rate, most malnourished children, and high rates of sexist attacks on women workers and gender-based violence. But the working class has not given up, and these strikes point our way to workers' power.

'The whole of Bengaluru sprung into the air...'

That's because the strike also hurt India's bosses in industries that weren't even on strike. India is the world's top exporter of information technology (IT) services, representing nearly eight per cent of India's economy. At the center of India's IT industry is Bengaluru (Bangalore). With 12.3 million workers, the bosses treasure it as the "Silicon Valley" of India. It is also home to some of India's most important educational, aerospace and military research facilities.

And workers from every industry there brought it all to a grinding halt. The Bangalore Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC), the "city's lifeline…with a daily ridership of 45 lakh [450,000]" reported a 90 per cent reduction in service (Times of India, 1/9). Workers threw stones at the scabs still working, damaging 35 BMTC buses and twelve more state-run commuter buses, ensuring total shutdown. Even the prestigious universities that initially remained open were forced to close.

Bengaluru workers proved Marx correct once again: the working class cannot stir, cannot raise itself up without the entire capitalist system being sprung into the air.

Build PLP!

Progressive Labor Party salutes our striking sisters and brothers. The international working class needs that militant leadership now more than ever. Ultimately what our class needs most is mass international revolutionary communist leadership, which at the moment is absent among the multitude of nationalist fake leftist groups in India. Workers in India showed us again that we run the world. They showed the potential that as PLP grows around the world and links these struggles into a revolutionary communist movement of millions, the sooner we will smash these racist borders and control it.✪

Sudan workers rebel! Bosses caught at cross-hair of U.S.-China Rivalry



KHARTOUM, SUDAN "The regime is panicking! I have never seen them panicking like this." That's what an activist with Justice Africa said as massive protests erupted here in response to the government's attempt to triple the price of bread and fuel. The protests started in the eastern city of Atbara, the former home of the Sudanese Communist Party, which was one of the most powerful communist parties in Africa or the Middle East. The demonstrations quickly spread to six other cities, including the capital.

Like all workers' struggles today, this fight in Sudan unfolds in a world where the rivalry between imperialists is the main factor shaping events. For decades now, Sudan has been a crucial outpost for Chinese capitalists in their drive to challenge U.S. imperialism and establish themselves as a new center of gravity in the world economy. In 1995 President al-Bashir signed an important oil deal with the China, supporting their bid to establish energy access outside the military footprint of US imperialism's Mid-East presence. China now controls 75% of Sudanese oil output of 133,000 barrels a day (thediplomat.com, 6/17/18).

Over this same period of time U.S. imperialism has sought to answer growing Chinese influence in the region by backing a series of separatist/nationalist/fascist movements in Sudan fomenting instability and civil war at the expense of the lives of millions. Following Sudan's first oil discovery in 1978 civil war raged from 1983 to 2005. US imperialist running-dog politician John Garang, trained at Fort Benning, Georgia, received $20 million of military equipment in 1996 (Federation of American Scientists) helping to prolong a war which has displaced four million and killed two million of our working class brothers and sisters in the Sudan .

Despite the false promises by the Darfur separatist movement, and the later secession of oil-rich South Sudan in 2011 to create the world's most recent capitalist state,the workers of Sudan continue to pay the price for U.S. imperialism's ongoing efforts to deny Chinese imperialist access to a stable outpost in Africa.

Most recently the Trump administration has reversed course by lifting sanctions imposed on the al-Bashir regime as he has committed thousands of troops to the U.S.-backed Saudi coalition's genocidal war in Yemen. This "integration" of Sudan's economy into world trade has pried it open for IMF and World Bank "structural adjustment" policies, which always amount to an attack on workers. In this case Wall Street demanded an end to subsidies that kept fuel and wheat more affordable, triggering the protests. Such subsidies, like all pro-worker policies capitalist governments implement, are relics of class struggle of prior generations. Sudanese workers carry forward this tradition of class struggle today. Similar protests over rising fuel and bread prices took place earlier in 2018 and in 2013 and were put down by security forces.

Police and army snipers opened fire on protesting workers and students, killing about 30, according to local journalists. The government arrested 14 leaders of the opposition National Consensus Forces, and shut down internet service and social media sites. Universities and schools in the capital were also closed as many demonstrators across the country demanded an end to the 30-year dictatorship.

Inflation reached an annual rate of 70 percent last November, leaving many Sudanese workers unable to buy food. Many have been standing in long lines and spending up to 40 percent of their income just on bread or sleeping in their cars for two days waiting to buy gas.

Workers in Sudan in struggle today against the al-Bashir regime must rebuild a communist movement that will correct the errors of its predecessors or their brave struggle against al-Bashir 's fascist state will be diverted into fighting for the interests of forces loyal either to U.S. or to Chinese imperialism. Sudanese communists formed the Sudanese Movement for National Liberation in 1946 with a program of fighting for self-determination, national consciousness, and uniting all classes under the leadership of Sudanese workers and peasants in the fight for independence from British imperialism. With the abandonment of world revolution being pronounced from a USSR exhausted by its recent defeat in World War II, Sudanese communists viewed socialist revolution as too distant a prospect to be presented to the masses, and all organizing was dedicated to the fight for independence (el-Amin, 1996 Middle Eastern Studies). These nationalist errors by communists worldwide are analyzed more fully in Progressive Labor Party's Road to Revolution III (1976).

More and more, Africa finds itself in the crosshairs of the growing rivalry between U.S. and Chinese imperialism. The result is more poverty, more terror and more war. Taking lessons from history, a new communist movement will rise up from the struggles of Sudan's working class and this time finish the job that was started in Atbara more than 50 years ago.✪

LA strike: student-parent-teacher solidarity

Continued from page 1

Schools out, learning still in session

Not all teachers were yet won to taking such militant action, but they still found ways to contribute by talking to the parents dropping their kids off. They explained to parents and students about the teachers strike. Out of 1,300 enrolled students, less than 100 showed up to school by the end of the week. Some students came to school but were later picked up by their parents. Instead, many parents have supported the teachers and have sent their kids to join us in the morning rally.

Dozens of teachers have come to respect the leadership of this PL'er after he's led more militant action on the picket line. No matter how sharp the class struggle becomes, only by leading with communist politics will we be able to grow and sustain growth. This strike has given us all the opportunity to deepen relationships while also discussing our ideas with hopes of bringing one or two teachers closer to Party.

The inherent racism of LAUSD

That is just one school, but similar fights are happening throughout the city. Education workers are talking about how Los Angeles Unified School District's (LAUSD) refusal to spend their $2 billion reserve is callous. We moved the politics to the left by calling out the racist nature of these "austerity measures." Although the LAUSD budget is the same for all schools, clearly the conditions within schools are not the same. Wealthy neighborhoods can fundraise for the needed personnel, but poor schools in Black and Latin neighborhoods are forced to accept LAUSD's horrible policies, which include 42 students a class and a nurse only one day out of the week.

Education workers all around the city have wanted better learning conditions for years and are now saying they are ready to hold the picket lines for as long as necessary. When workers organize and fight back together, they get a taste of the power they have when they unite and fight back. We don't have to accept the way things are. We can fight and we can win!

Mass support for strike

In fact, after multiple marches throughout the city of over 50,000 people each, the entire city is talking about the problems of this education system. According to a survey conducted by the Thomas and Dorothy Leavey Center for the Study of Los Angeles at LMU, over 80 percent of Los Angeles County supports the teachers' strike (My News LA 01/19). Indeed, support has come in from all over the world. This shows us the need the working class has for examples of fight back and mass militant action against the ruling class and their racist education system.

After six days of striking, the United Teachers Los Angeles (UTLA) union presented its first contract to education workers. "The deal includes caps on class sizes, and hiring full-time nurses for every school…a librarian for every middle and high school in the district by the fall of 2020…Next year a committee will develop a plan to reduce the number of assessments by half. The pro-charter school board agreed to vote on a resolution calling on the state to cap the number of charter schools. Teachers also won a 6 percent pay raise, but that was the same increase proposed by the district before the strike" (New York Times, 1/22).

As the LA strikers prepare to go back to school, education workers in Denver, Colorado and Oakland, Calif. are preparing to vote to strike.

More fights ahead

This strike forced the hand of LAUSD to provide some of what education workers were demanding (see full analysis of strike next issue). These hard-won gains by the education workers do not come close to providing what our working-class students deserve. The gains themselves expose the limits of capitalism: this system can never fulfill our demands for optimal learning conditions. If the strikers take what they learned from this class struggle to organize for the fightback ahead, this indeed is a victory!

The strikers feel empowered in this moment. It is our job now to take the contacts we made during the strike and strengthen the communist side of these new relationships.

The Progressive Labor Party will remain on the front lines of these struggles. We know the working class, as the producer of society, holds more power than the leeches of society, the ruling class. By fighting together, we will eventually abolish capitalism and build a youth- and worker-run society, communism.✪

Chicago: KKKop Van Dyke

Continued from page 8

Dyke firing 16 shots into LaQuan was made public in 2015, racist politicians of all stripes jumped on the opportunity to exploit his death for their own ends, whether to deflect criticism from themselves or to attack their rivals. In light of the recent Van Dyke trial and an upcoming mayoral election in Chicago, these despicable efforts have sharpened.

Long-time liberal Chicago boss and current mayoral candidate Toni Preckwinkle has shamelessly inflated her role (she was city medical examiner at the time of LaQuan's murder) in the efforts to get the dashcam video made public, an obvious appeal to win votes that has backfired against her. Garry McCarthy, who was fired as police superintendent by racist Mayor Rahm Emanuel in the wake of the exposed video, has used the murder and the legitimate backlash against the racist CPD to promote his own "law and order" campaign for mayor.

Community "activist" William Calloway, who was promoted by the bosses' media as the spokesperson for the grassroots struggle on LaQuan's behalf, has responded to the recent court decisions with, "We're not gonna protest and take to the streets. We're gonna go to the polls" (Chicago Sun-Times, 1/19). Calloway has unsurprisingly made a campaign to run for an alderman position.

By backing any of these racist lowlifes, workers are choosing a losing strategy. Regardless of who ends up in office, we can expect more of the general trend of intensifying gentrification, the closing of more schools, increases in the cost of living, and racist police terror throughout Chicago and beyond. Nothing short of a mass communist-led workers' movement can challenge that.

What we do counts

Although Van Dyke's punishment hardly fits his crime, and is a racist slap in the face to LaQuan's memory, anti-racist fighters should take pride in the fact that it was their mass anger and actions up to this point that made sure that the bosses felt it necessary to give him a sentence at all. The Black Friday demonstrations that blocked Chicago's Magnificent Mile, the shutting down of major intersections and highways, the demonstrations within and outside the courthouse, and the march upon Van Dyke at his own home – all these bold actions forced the bosses to act out of fear to our working-class anger.

Progressive Labor Party (PLP) has been proud to be a part of many of these actions, and honored to provide leadership to the movement whenever possible. We will continue to fight alongside our working-class sisters and brothers against racist capitalist injustice, always advocating for communist revolution and a worker-run society as the only real way to guarantee justice for our class.✪

Mexico organizes education conference for masses

The collective of an industrial zone of the State of Mexico, together with friends of the Progressive Labor Party (PLP), presented a report on the "Special Economic Zones" and the "Law of Internal Security" in a private preschool near where we live. In that school the director, partners, teachers, and parents have shown interest in the Party's line and have supported us in all the political and cultural activities that we have carried out. The collective has openly presented itself as members of PLP, an international communist party.

The school principal convened the mothers and fathers of the children to attend the session. At the beginning of the talk we made a presentation about PLP in the classroom, and 27 people participated in the discussion.The information presented dealt with current issues concerning the political climate which affect the entire working class.

The teacher friends of the party described the critical geographical areas of interest to the capitalists. In this way, they contextualized the law of internal security with the violence of the country in relation to the needs that bourgeois democracy demands.

The teachers were emphatic in that the information produced in the universities should be shared widely. All that knowledge must be transmitted in a way that the whole working class can understand, and analyze how this system works. This is necessary for us to develop critical thinking and to break with the capitalist ideas that infect our thinking.

Most participants were attentive during the talk; three people reacted negatively. After the talk, we invited those who were interested in continuing and deepening this conversation to come forward and share their contact information.

At the end, some parents who expressed their doubts, later exchanged opinions in a friendly manner with the teachers who gave the report. The teachers were kind and accessible to the concerns of the parents.

Today, more than ever, the working class needs a communist party to organize itself. Imperialism is much more cynical in showing its claws; it uses hunger, violence,and sexism, racism to confuse and divide us. It isolates us in the factories, in the office, with the need to maintain our jobs, to maintain and add more misery to our lives with overtime. The system attempts to make us forget, that all together we can achieve more and fight against the system. We must not let capitalism advance much more. We must sharpen the fight wherever we are.✪

PL & friends protest against Amazon takeover

NEW YORK CITY, January 20– In 2018, our Progressive Labor Party (PLP) club in NYC was very involved in the struggles of workers around housing, health, racism and workplace exploitation. As 2019 began, we have been active in support of the Central American Caravan and against the invasion of Amazon, one of the largest companies in the world, which will be building its second headquarters in Queens.

Amazon has colluded with city politicians (Mayor de Blasio and Governor Cuomo, both Democrats) to establish itself in NYC and win billions in subsidies, but the community is against the plan, knowing full well that Amazon's presence will lead to a rise in housing costs and to congested trains, buses and schools.

At the end of November 2018, we took part in several protests against Amazon sponsored by a community organization we are active in. At one event, a Party comrade spoke to the protesters, denouncing Amazon for exploiting its 560,000 workers around the world,with low wages and dangerous working conditions, all to enrich the chairman of the company, Jeff Bezos – the world's richest man, who earns more than eight million dollars per hour while his workers have to work overtime just to survive. (One-third of warehouse workers in Arizona are reportedly receiving SNAP benefits – food stamps.)

Our comrade pointed out another reason to oppose Amazon: it is a major contributor to the U.S. repressive state apparatus. The company is in negotiations with Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to sell its facial recognition software (Rekognition), which would help ICE deport even more undocumented immigrant workers (our class brothers and sisters).

Employees at Amazon have opposed the contract with ICE, horrified at the agency's separation of families at the border with Mexico. Besides ICE, for years Amazon has supplied Rekognition to police departments, which can use the technology to identify and create a database of protesters. Amazon also has a $600 million contract with the CIA, notorious for its record of overthrowing progressive governments (Guatemala, Chile, Zaire, the list goes on), installing repressive regimes and running secret detention centers, where torture is normal.

The community organization we work in wants to force Amazon to either pay billions of dollars in taxes or not come to the city, which doesn't get to the heart of the problem. There are other liberal organizations in the anti-Amazon coalition that recommend boycotting Amazon and supporting small businesses–ones threatened by Amazon's arrival–instead. But we cannot indulge in the nostalgia of the "good old days" of family businesses. Amazon started out as a small company and is now a mega-corporation. Meanwhile, most small businesses fail because of high rents and competition. Capitalism needs to be overthrown, not reformed.

The encouraging news is that Amazon workers are fighting back. Angry at low-wages, constant pressure to work faster, extreme heat leading to dehydration and collapse, and the high numbers of injuries in the warehouses, workers are organizing. Somali women held rallies outside the Minneapolis-area warehouse to protest speed-up and disrespectful treatment. Workers at a warehouse in Staten Island, NY are unionizing. Recently, Amazon workers in Spain, Italy, Germany and Britain organized walkouts, shutting down production to protest low wages and lousy conditions.

Amazon's treatment of its workers, and the way in which politicians cater to its needs is a clear example of how capitalist owners care only for profits and use their tremendous wealth to buy the loyalty of government officials. That's why we need to end the profit-system and work towards communism, an egalitarian system whose goal is to create a better life for the working class. We dedicate 2019 to that goal.✪

RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Below are excerpts from mainstream newspapers that may be of use for our readers. Abbreviations: NYT=New York Times, GW=Guardian Weekly, LAT=Los Angeles Times

Bangladesh: Garment workers battle cops, shut 52 factories

GW, 1/18,– Thousands of garment workers in Bangladesh…clashed with police as strike action over low wages entered its second week. Water cannon and tear gas were fired…to disperse huge crowds of striking factory workers in Savar, a garment hub just outside the capital, Dhaka. "The workers barricaded the highway,"…said police…." So far 52 factories, including some big ones, have shut down operations…"

One worker was killed when police fired rubber bullets and tear gas at 5,000 protesting workers. Bangladesh is dependent on garments stitched by millions of low-paid tailors…[for] export [to] global retailers H&M, Primark, Walmart, Tesco and Aldi…

Union leader Aminul Islam blamed factory owners for resorting to violence to control striking workers. "But they are more united than ever….It doesn't seem like they will leave the streets until their demands are met…" Minimum wages for the lowest-paid garment workers [are]…$95 a month…Bangladesh's 4,500 textile and clothing factories shipped more than $30bn worth of apparel last year…the second-largest apparel exporter after China.

Billionaire pushers of OxyContin killed <200k

NYT, 1/16 — The Sackler family which owns the company that makes OxyContin, directed years of efforts to mislead doctors and patients about the dangers of the powerful opioid painkiller….When evidence of growing abuse of the drug became clear…Richard Sackler advised pushing blame onto people who had become addicted. "We have to hammer on abusers in every way possible," Mr. Sackler wrote…was president of…Purdue Pharma. "They are the culprits and the problem. They are reckless criminals."

...The aggressive promotion of the drug helped ignite the opioid epidemic…Since….1996, more than 200,000 people have died in the United States from overdoses in involving prescription opioids…

…The Sacklers…are one of the richest families in the United States….Sackler family members were aware that Purdue Pharma repeatedly failed to alert authorities to scores of reports the company had received that OxyContin was being abused and sold on the street. The company also used pharmacy discount cards to increase OxyContin sales…

Company sales representatives told doctors that OxyContin couldn't be abused and…that the drug had an addiction risk for patients of "less than one percent," a claim that had no scientific backing….Purdue Pharma was selling more than $1 billion worth of OxyContin annually….

…Purdue Pharma…continued to illegally market the drug…at levels that increased the drug's dangers…In 2016, Forbes magazine estimated the family's wealth at about $13 billion.

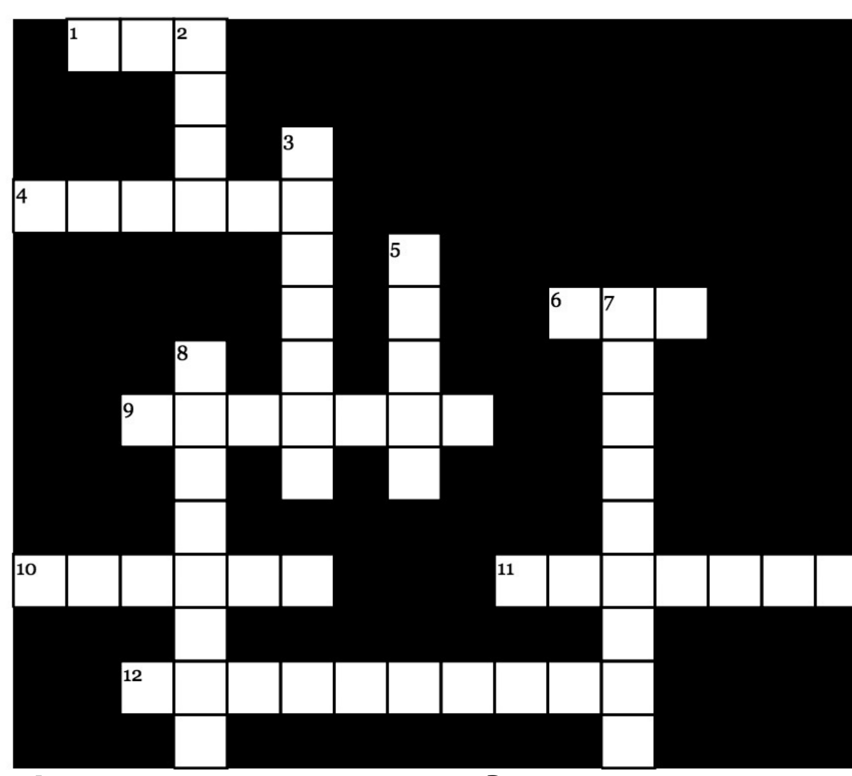
France: Rebels chase minister, battle cops

NYT, 1/6 — The first Yellow Vest demonstrations of the new year reached a new level…as a government building was attacked and the minister evacuated out the back door. What started…as a protest over gas taxes has turned into a more general attack on the French government. Benjamin Griveaux…[said] Yellow Vest protestors…commandeered a construction vehicle and broke down the door of the Left Bank building…and broke several windows…

…Some 50,000 took part in…demonstrations all over France….Near the Musée d'Orsay in Paris, the police used tear gas and flash balls to block hundreds of protesters. Video…showed protesters fighting hand to hand with club-wielding police officers. Protesters dragged two officers to the ground and kicked them repeatedly. On the Champs-Elysées…protesters threw rocks at the police and officers used water cannon to disperse the crowd.

Scooters and a car were burned along one of the capital's symbols of wealth and prestige, the Boulevard Saint-Germain...Skirmishes broke out between the police and protesters in major cities…including Nantes, Bordeaux and Caen….In Toulouse, 2,000 people took to the streets. The…unrest [has] pressured Mr. Macron to act…He scrapped a contentious fuel tax increase and promised extra cash for minimum wage earners and tax cuts for pensioners.

Communist crossword puzzle no.2



Across

1. New Yorker workers use this failing-system to travel on a daily basis

4. Democratic self-styled "resistance heroine" and ruling class war monger

6. Amazon is negotiating with this racist faction to sell its facial recognition software

9. Means of crossing US-MX border

10. This false ideological creation was instrumental to the rise of capitalism and must be smashed

11. KKKop sentenced to a pathetic 6 years in prison Friday for the murder of 17-year-old Laquan McDonald (2 Words)

12. Education workers in this US city went on strike mid-January for their students (2 Words)

Down

2. Workers in Matamoros, MX join in solidarity with workers in Canada as they strike conditions in this industry

3. Name for work stoppage that occurs during the term of a collective bargaining agreement without approval of union leadership and in violation of a no-strike clause

5. Over 300 demonstrations in this African country have arisen since mid December

7. Strikes are schools for what revolutionary ideas?

8. Black KKKops like ______, new acting police chief in Baltimore, are not the answer for Black workers

visit plp.org for answers to puzzle no. 1

Van Dyke jailed; politicans exploit Laquan's murder

CHICAGO, January 18—Judge Vince Gaughan sentenced racist killer cop Jason Van Dyke to a pathetic 81 months in prison for his brutal murder of Black teenager LaQuan McDonald in October of 2014. The day before, three other racist cops from the Chicago Police Department (CPD) were cleared of all charges in connection to their role in covering up for Van Dyke in the aftermath of LaQuan's murder (Chicago Sun-Times, 1/17).

These outcomes are perfectly in line with the long history of racist legal inequality under the capitalist system, spanning centuries. The reality demonstrates time and time again that the working class cannot expect justice to come from the bosses' legal system, which ultimately can only defend the state power of the capitalist class.

The international working class can only expect true justice to be delivered when we organize ourselves to take it by force. By building the international Progressive Labor Party (PLP) and communist revolution, we can destroy capitalism and its legal system designed to protect property and profits. Justice comes when workers collectively run society, with laws based on protecting the needs of our class!

Racism codified into capitalism

Van Dyke's shameful six-year sentence represents another blunt reality check to the idea that the bosses' courts will give any real punishment to racist and sexist cops for their crimes against workers. Even a quick glance at the outcome of the many high-profile racist police murders from recent years in the U.S. drives this reality home:

- Dante Servin, who shot and killed 22 year old Black woman Rekia Boyd on the west side of Chicago in March 2012, found not guilty in 2015
- Darren Wilson, murderer of 18 year old Mike Brown in Ferguson, not indicted by a grand jury
- Timothy Loehmann, who shot and killed 12 year old Tamir Rice in 2014, found not guilty by a grand jury
- Daniel Panteleo, who choked Eric Garner to death in New York City in 2014, still not officially indicted on charges
- Jeronimo Yanez, who shot and killed Philando Castile during a traffic stop in 2016, found not guilty of second-degree murder charges

The creation of race and racism was instrumental to the rise of capitalism, with the capitalist class using its state power over the legal system to write and enforce countless racist laws to maintain its rule. From colonial laws that prohibited interaction between white and Black workers, to the U.S. constitution acknowledging Black people as only "three-fifths of a person" and therefore property, to fugitive slave laws, to obscene inequalities in sentencing for drug and weapons offenses in the present day, racism has always been ingrained in capitalist law.

The courts show such leniency to the killer cops because the cops are a chief force responsible for carrying out racist capitalist law. Although the bosses may try to make an example out of a particular cop here and there, overall they know that the police are essential to their needs of dividing and conquering the working class to maintain their system.

Racist politicians cynically exploit LaQuan's murder

From the moment the dashcam video of Van-

Maquiladora workers in mass rebellion



MATAMOROS, MEXICO, January 20—This city near the Mexican–U.S. border and the entire auto industry have been rocked by a one-week wildcat strike of workers at 45 factories, including tens of thousands of auto parts and assembly workers at companies that supply GM, Ford and Fiat-Chrysler(La Jornada, 1/13). In total more than 40,000 workers have taken to the streets. (El Bravo, 1/18).

There are about 3,000 "maquiladora" factories on the Mexican side of the border that account for 65 percent of Mexican exports. They employ more than one million low-wage workers in sweatshop conditions.

The Matamoros Mayor and Mexican President Lopez Obrador of the ruling National Regeneration Movement (Morena) have sent heavily armed police and soldiers to harass the picket lines.

Matamoros is just across the border from Brownsville, Texas, where Donald Trump visited to denounce workers from Mexico and Central American and to demand his border wall. The struck companies include Inteva, STC, Polytech, Kemet, Tyco, Parker, AFX and Autoliv. All the world's auto bosses are invested here, producing for export to the U.S. One week's lost production has cost the companies $100 million, and they fear the strike could spread to cities like Ciudad Juarez.

The strike began on January 12, when workers learned that the companies would not pay the bonuses and raises called for in their contracts. Over the past decade, wages for auto workers in Mexico have been cut in half, with the average assembly worker making just $3.00/hour, and the average parts supplier worker (about 90 percent of the auto workforce in Mexico) making just $1.50/hour.

Workers have so far defied the orders of the bosses and union leaders from the Union of Laborers and Industrial Workers of the Maquiladora Industry (SJOIIM) to return to work, despite threats of violence and mass firings. According to one striker, Kemet workers have been locked out, AFX workers were threatened with violence for hanging a strike banner, and at Autoliv, the police were called in to remove workers from the property.

A sense of the vast shake up across the auto industry and other sectors was given by the Maquiladoras Association of Matamoros, which reported Friday that the losses for the companies have surpassed $100 million.

The auto bosses in the U.S.,Canada, and Mexico fear that the strike could disrupt the supply chain to North American Assembly plants and also inspire U.S. and morew Canadian auto workers who have their contracts expiring this summer. That in part explains the total mainstream media blackout of the strike in the U.S.

Capitalism has nothing to offer the working class, and once they have made up their minds, the workers are very capable of fighting back. Battles like this mass wildcat can be schools for communism, where we learn important political lessons in how to overthrow the bosses with communist revolution.✪